

## **OH! THAT'S A CRETE MOBILE!!!**

BY BUCS (SCW) David Frye, NMCB ONE Charlie Company Chief

Seabee's from NMCB ONE's Charlie Company held in-rate training on the often heard of, yet rarely seen, Crete Mobile. Seabees were coming out of the woodwork to get a first hand look at this somewhat mythical piece of Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE). The two-hour training consisted of both lecture and practical application as the crew placed concrete for two v-ditch caps to be used on the Ball Field project.

BU3 (SCW) Womack, one of the battalion's Seabees most familiar with the equipment, coordinated and conducted the training. He stated, "It's a great asset that we just don't use enough. If we ever conduct Rapid Runway Repair in a contingency situation, this is what we will use." BU3 Womack and BUCN Merling briefed the class on safety and the specifics of the Crete Mobile. BUC (SCW) Tracy, Charlie Company Operations Chief said, "I got a lot out of the training; everyone seemed really interested and we had people from all rates coming to see it run".

There are a lot of moving parts to the Crete Mobile. Getting the calibration just right can take a while. BU3 Womack stated, "Every machine needs to be adjusted differently; tweaked one way or the other to get the right mix". BU1 (SCW) Brock, Charlie Company LPO said, "It wouldn't be a bad idea to have a CM or EO assigned to a Crete Mobile crew who can anticipate mechanical issues and correct them on the spot, because the controls are so sensitive and many mechanical things are happening at once."

All in all it was great training for NMCB ONE's Seabees. Current world events certainly lead us to believe that battalions will see more contingencies, which in turn could lead us to a greater need to keep training current on the Crete Mobile.